

SB NEWSLIN @ ALLBBS \$NLIN.948
Amateur Radio Newsline #948 15 OCT 1995

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NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #948 - POSTED 10/13/95

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. Amateur Radio Newsline is a audio news service distributed via telephone.

This hardcopy version is produced by Dale Cary - WD0AKO from scripts provided to him weekly by Newsline. It is then distributed to on-line services, bbs networks and internet user jointly by Dale Cary and Steve Coletti.

Editorial comments, news item and all other business should be directed to:

Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF
Newsline Producer & Editor

Internet E-mail: 3241437@mcimail.com
MCI E-mail: WESTRADIO
Phone: (805) 296-7180
Fax: (805) 296-7180
(Fax senders wait for voice prompt.)

Hardcopy comments or complements can be directed to:

Dale Cary, WD0AKO
Hardcopy Distribution for Newsline

Internet E-mail: wd0ako@rrnet.com

MCI E-mail: DCARY

Phone: (218) 236-6324

The audio version of Newsline can be recorded from one of the currently operating lines listed below. This list is kept as accurate as possible. If any changes are not listed, please contact Dale Cary - WD0AKO at the above listed addresses.

Audio Version of Newsline

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| | |
|--|----------------|
| Los Angeles..... | (213) 462-0008 |
| Los Angeles (Instant Update Line)..... | (805) 296-2407 |
| Seattle..... | (206) 368-3969 |
| Seattle..... | (206) 281-8455 |
| Tacoma..... | (206) 927-7373 |
| Louisville..... | (502) 894-8559 |
| Dayton..... | (513) 275-9991 |
| Chicago..... | (708) 289-0423 |
| New York City..... | (718) 284-0752 |
| Melbourne, FL..... | (407) 768-7447 |
| Houston..... | (713) 362-4650 |

Electronic Hardcopy Version of Newsline

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|--|------------------|
| GEnie..... | m345;1 |
| GEnie..... | m345;3 |
| Dallas Remote Imaging BBS (DRIG)..... | (214) 492-7573 |
| In bulletin number 36 | |
| The Midwest Connection BBS..... | (701) 239-2440 |
| In bulletin number 6 of the ham radio conference | |
| America Online..... | |
| Ham Radio forum/Ham Radio General File Library | |
| Delphi..... | |
| In the ham radio conference | |
| CompuServe/HamNet..... | HamNet Library 0 |

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For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, please write to us with an SASE at

NEWSLINE
c/o Andy Jarema-N6TCQ
P.O.Box 660937
Arcadia, CA
91066

Thank You,

NEWSLINE

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Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB4KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU WD0AKO DJ0QN
and many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

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[948]

The following is a QST

Repeater coordinators meet in St. Louis and change the very basis of repeater coordination. Also more on the aftermath of Hurricane Opel and another Big MACC attack. These stories and more on Newsline report number 948 for release on Friday, October 13, 1995 coming your way right now!

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REPEATER COORDINATORS MEET

The nations repeater frequency coordinators have met with the ARRL and the FCC in St. Charles, Missouri. It was a politically charged meeting that has changed the face of VHF operation forever. This is because there is now a tentative agreement by which the American Radio Relay League has tentatively agreed, subject to board approval, to represent the nations coordinators

to the FCC. This, in exchange for the commission recognizing the work of the coordinators and possibly making their decisions binding on the ham radio community.

The meeting was held at the Best Western Noah's Ark motor hotel not far from the St. Louis Airport. About fifty of the nations sixty five recognized repeater coordinators were present. Also in the room were representatives of packet radio, amateur television and other modes that use the VHF and UHF spectrum, but from the outset it was made clear that this meeting was to discuss the problems of FM voice repeater coordination only. Even though he was there unofficially, the tone of the meeting was set by the keynote speaker Ralph Haller, N4RH, Deputy Chief of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau:

"I'm particularly delighted that all of you have taken time from your schedules to be here and you have shown so much interest in this matter, that you would come to St. Louis on a Saturday.

I would like to ask that we try to stay focused. In talking to you, I know a number of you in this room have lots of other concerns. Enforcement, changes in the volunteer examine program, but that is not what today's meeting is about. Today's meeting is to talk about frequency coordination. An opportunity to get to really get to know each other. And it's an opportunity to bring frequency coordination to yet a higher plateau. So during the day let's stay focused on the real issue of why we are here. Let's not get side tracked on other issues that can easily take up the day. Let's stay focused on frequency coordination. This is a truly historic day in the history of Amateur Radio." Haller, N4HY

Historic yes, but not without its problems. For a while, the entire proceeding seemed to be slipping away as the political differences between various coordinators and between some coordinators and the ARRL took center stage. As a result, much of the early discussion derailed into matters of finite detail rather than the general picture that Haller had requested. So, not unlike other legislative bodies in a state of conflict, the group recessed. It was when the meeting reconvened that headway began. Owen Wormser, K6LEW, the president of the Mid Atlantic Repeater Council was the person who brought it back on track:

"For the sake of a beginning can we agree that those that are listed in the current ARRL Repeater Directory as coordinators for their specific areas etc. are in fact the baseline from which we can begin. Perhaps, but not the final solution, perhaps not the end of it, but can we agree that that is at least the beginning. Because where the next point goes is, if that is agreed then we have something else to say. And that is that in the longer term our objective is to produce the white paper which will be

delivered by a committee from this organization. Not an ad hoc committee. This is our organization. So our committee will deliver to Mr. Haller the white paper. That white paper out of our consensus down stairs will address the specificity of a single point of contact, an organization, not a single individual paralleling very closely the commercial representation to the FCC in the form of a single point of contact. And that in order to get some recognized coordinators to single point of contact, there is a lot of specificity that must be put into this white paper." Wormser, K6LEW

Owen Wormser set the stage for the group to arrive at a consensus, but it would be many more hours before this would happen. A turning point came with the comments of Jim Fortney, K6IYK, who chairs Southern California's 220 MHz Spectrum Management Association. If Owen Wormser gave the assemblage its direction, it was Jim Fortney that added purpose:

"It has become very clear to me and I hope it would be clear to the majority of the rest of you, that the environment that the FCC finds itself in no longer allows us to use the methods and techniques that we have used in the past to deal with them. And that in fact that we better look at some new approaches. And one of those approaches that is being used elsewhere and has been suggested from a variety of directions that would be advantageous to us is if we, and I am talking about amateur radio, not repeater coordination necessarily, but amateur radio in total, we amateur radio had someone who represented us to the FCC." Fortney

Discussions and debates lasted another four hours. In the end it was decided to name the American Radio Relay League as the single point of contact, or spoc, between the nations frequency coordinators and the FCC. A committee chaired by Owen Wormser, K6LEW was empowered to draft a white paper setting forth the goals of the spoc. This paper will be circulated to all the nations recognized frequency coordinators listed in the ARRL repeater directory for comment before a final version is submitted. All of this seemed to please the FCC's Haller:

"Clearly this afternoon, I think tremendous progress has been made. And I look forward to continuing to work with this group and your representatives who will ultimately be working with us directly in Washington. I think this is a giant move forward for Amateur Radio and I think it says a lot that all of you come here with such diverse views and in the course of a few short hours reach this kind of consensus." Haller

There is still a lot to be done before recognition of the work

of coordinators becomes reality. Two of the biggest hurdles are drafting a white paper acceptable to most coordinators and for the ARRL's Board of Directors to vote on whether or not it really wants the spoc job. The latter will happen in mid January.

But assuming both of these tasks are accomplished, it may eventually mean that the average ham, people like you and me who simply operate FM with a mobile rig or an HT can be assured that the day of the so-called pirate repeater will come to an end. That our ability to communicate through our favorite repeater with a minimum of interference from another uncoordinated and unwanted repeater on the same channel pair, will be assured. And from a users point of view, what more can an FM enthusiast want.

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NEW MACC MEMBERS

Also making news in St. Charles is an announcement by the giant Mid America Coordination Council. The big MACC, as it has become known, has swallowed up two more regions. Not surprising was the decision by Eastern Washington state and the Idaho Panhandle to fall under the MACC umbrella. What caught everyone by surprise was an announcement by California's Northern Amateur Relay Council that it too was joining MACC. Don Smith, W6NKF, the President of NARC says its time that hams in California drop their isolationist policies:

"The way that coordination and everything else is going to go. If we have a united front, we have a better of than if we are a bunch of splinters. And I think we need, in this point in time, a united front." Smith

Does this mean that Southern California is next? Probably not. This is because frequency coordination in Southern California is by several different organizations acting as caretakers for various repeater subbands. Also, there is the turmoil on two meters as to who really is the frequency coordinator with nine groups challenging the long term coordinator for that position. Southern California will have to solve a lot of regional problems before any umbrella group will bother to give it an ear.

Meantime, the Mid America Coordination Council is now a consortium of 22 amateur radio frequency coordination entities serving 18 states and portions of 3 others. Each entity is autonomous within the MACC organization with all MACC frequency coordination policies and guidelines being advisory only. In addition to providing mutual recognition of frequency coordinators, MACC provides in house technical assistance and dispute mediation to those regions and entities requesting such services.

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ARRL SEEKS ENFORCEMENT ACTION

In what might be considered as a related matter, the ARRL may be headed to congress to try and force the FCC to enforce the Amateur Service rules. At least the rules that govern willful and malicious interference.

According to Minute number 3.1 of the recent Executive Committee meeting, on a motion presented by Director Joel Harrison, WB5IGF, League President Rod Stafford, KB6ZV has been directed to appoint an ad hoc committee to -- and we quote -- "develop objectives and strategies to achieve legislative solutions to the problem of inadequate enforcement."

This action was prompted at least in part by a report to the committee by League General Counsel Christopher D, Imlay, N3AKD. In his report, Imlay reported that progress on two egregious cases of repeater jamming have proceeded far slower than had been promised by the FCC staff. N3AKD also noted that the announced closings of FCC field offices along with staff cuts appear to have contributed to a deterioration in morale.

The FCC's internal problems notwithstanding, the ARRL appears to have concluded that the commission has a constitutionally mandated responsibility to the American public. And since radio amateurs are a part of this constituency, the FCC has an obligation to enforce the rules it makes. If the agency fails to do so, then legislative action may have to be taken to make it happen.

Also noted in the committee minutes is RM-8626, a petition by W5YI Report publisher Fred Maia of Arlington, Texas. Minute 3.6 says that the petition which would outlaw most one-way high frequency transmissions was strongly opposed by hundreds of commenters and should be, dismissed.

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OPEL FOLLOW-UP

If you've ever wondered just how helpful amateur radio can be during disasters, look no further than the Gulf coast. With Hurricane Opal pounding northwest Florida and southern Alabama, amateur radio operators found their services and resources in great demand.

On 75 meters, hurricane disaster nets are in full operation. Some amateurs are on the air around the clock while Opal slams ashore near Pensacola October 4th. Emergency communications on HF are just one of the services amateur radio operators provide. Central Alabama's VHF and UHF amateur frequencies are full of

storm related traffic. People fleeing the hurricane arrived in Birmingham to stay in Red Cross shelters. Boyd Bradshaw, KB4GDN, was part of a communications effort starting at 7:30 Wednesday morning October 4th, an effort in part to help the Red Cross:

"They had approximately 12 shelters set up in the Birmingham area. We provided some communications to shelters that did not have telephones due to flooding the previous day. The net stayed in session until 2:00 AM the next morning. We were constantly taking damage reports and relaying those to the AMA Office and also relaying the position, status and what to expect to in the weather because most people were without power." Bradshaw

Power was a problem for the Red Cross at its hurricane staging center just south of Birmingham. The center is located in a shopping mall and has no backup power. When the lights went out, so did the phone system. Amateur radio came to the rescue with members of the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club bringing in the Club's 10-thousand watt generator. The generator provided power until commercial electricity could be restored. Radio amateurs worked closely with Alabama emergency management agencies, forwarding damage information and even a report of a tornado which the National Weather Service was not aware of.

Hurricane Opal brings a lesson about emergency preparedness to amateur radio. Opal caused one of the worst power outages the state of Alabama has ever seen. In fact, nearly a quarter of a million customers were without power three days after the hurricane hit. Many of the hams relaying emergency messages were able to do so only because they had emergency power.

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ST CROIX TRAFFIC

Another recent tropical storm is still in the news. Robert Puharic, WF3H, says via packet that he monitored Federal Emergency Management Association communications on 14.776 MHz passing messages into ST Croix following Hurricane Marilyn. He then called FEMA in Washington, DC to find out what the conditions are for getting traffic into the islands.

In true bureaucratic style, a FEMA spokesman told WF3H that the Washington office was unaware of personal traffic going into the islands on HF. He was also told that if he had questions about people in the islands to contact the Red Cross.

Oh yes. We forgot to mention that WF3H had already spent a day on 20 meters running traffic to the hurricane devastated region!

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IMAX IMAGES OF SHUTTLE-MIR AVAILABLE VIA INTERNET

Hams with Internet access will find several dramatic new images highlighting the historic docking of the Space Shuttle Atlantis and the Mir space station are available on the world wide web. The high resolution images show crew activities and views of Atlantis taken from Mir recorded using a 70-mm IMAX camera.

Links to the collection can be found on the "Today at NASA Home Page" on the world wide web.

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AMSAT-NA BOD ELECTION RESULTS

Bill Tynan, W3X0, Dick Daniels, W4PUJ, Junior Torres de Castro and Bob Meyers have been elected as Directors in Amsat North America. A total of 1491 AMSAT members cast ballots in this year's election.

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ED STULKA, W4QA - SK

Ed Stluka, W4QAU, has died. Ed started his space career as a test engineer on Explorer I, America's first satellite. He put his ham skills to work to develop a mobile tracking station that was instrumental in getting data from the satellite during its early passes.

Ed also worked on the Apollo program and was one of the lead engineers on the Boeing IUS upper stage flown on the Shuttle. Ed Stluka was 67.

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ARRL PHONE CHANGE

The ARRL has new phone numbers as the result of an area code for Newington. The Prefix has changed to 860 but the previous area code, 203, will continue to work until September 1996.

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DX

In DX, EI4BZ, informs us that he hopes to go mobile and activate some squares each Tuesday evening on 80 meters from 19:00 UTC. He adds that other mobiles are welcome to join in for a contact. QSL as directed.

And interest in the Worked All Ireland Award continues to grow. Quite a few amateurs are now operational on or around 3.670 MHz from 19:00 UTC time most evenings. If you are in the shack, do give a call on 3.670 as recent activity has seen up to twenty

operators on the net.

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ARRL HONORS NY HEROS

The American Radio Relay League has given its highest possible honor to a New York area radio amateur. At its September 16th Executive Committee meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the committee voted unanimously to present its National Certificate of Merit to Henry Borawski, KB2PFP. This for -- and we quote -- "the bravery of his actions in responding to the World Trade Center bombing."

According to ARRL Hudson Division Director Steve Mendelsohn, WA2DHF, Borawski used Amateur Radio to assist citizens trapped inside the World Trade Center after the bomb went off. Mendelsohn who sponsored the Borawski nomination says that the award was given in recognition of the professional manner in which KB2PFP performed his acts of heroism.

At the same meeting, the Executive Committee also took note of the heroic efforts of numerous Long Island, New York hams who donated their communication skills in assisting firefighters beat back a six thousand acre blaze. The committee singled out three hams, Section Manager Rick Ramhap, N2GQR, Section Emergency Coordinator Mario Maltese, WF2T and Suffolk County District Emergency Coordinator Andrew Feldman, WB2FXN, for special praise.

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NEWSLINE LISTENER SURVEY

A reminder of the Newsline bulletin stations during the month of October. Handling the survey is Dale Cary, WD0AK0. If you are a regular Newsline listener, please take a moment to jot down on a post card or QSL card:

- 1) Your name and address.
- 2) The callsign of the repeater or bulletin station issuing Newsline in your area.
- 3) Its frequency or frequency pair.
- 4) The day of the week and time of day that Newsline gets played.

Then mail your report to:

Dale Cary, WD0AK0
1310 34th Avenue South, suite 103

Moorhead, Minnesota
56560-5162

Or you can e-mail your report to Dale via the Internet to:

wd0ako@rrnet.com

We will run the survey through the end of October. If all goes as we hope, by Christmas we will post a complete list of stations airing Newsline to our various sites on the Internet and to our home page on the World Wide Web.

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And for this week, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline. You can write to us at:

NEWSLINE
P.O.Box 660937
Arcadia, California
91066

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF at our editors desk and Dale Cary, WD0AKO at the survey desk, we say 73 and we thank you for reading Newsline.

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